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TELEGRAM

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
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CORRECTED COPY (TEXT - PARA 5)

SUBJECT: STAFF DEL PINCUS/PAUL

REFERENCE: STATE 095498

SUMMARY: PINCUS AND PAUL SPENT JULY 5-12 IN JAPAN WITH EMB AND USFJ STUDYING AND GATHERING INFO ON U.S. COMMITMENTS, BASE PROBLEMS, AND NATURE OF EMB INPUT TO MILITARY ACTIVITIES. GENERAL TENOR THEIR REMARKS TO EMBOFFS WAS THAT THEY DO NOT ACCEPT MILITARY JUSTIFICATION FOR PRESENT BASE AND FORCE STRUCTURE IN JAPAN AND BELIEVE REDUCTIONS POSSIBLE.

1. PINCUS AND PAUL ARRIVED TOKYO EVENING JULY 5 FROM SEOUL. THEY SPENT THAT EVENING AND FOLLOWING DAY (SUNDAY) WITH ESCORT OFFICER GOING OVER SCHEDULE, READING EMBASSY REPORTS ON ALL SECURITY SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS, ALSO ON SECURITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF DECEMBER 23, 1968, CHECKING OUT AGAINST MAP OF JAPAN ALL BASES LISTED IN USFJ PHONE BOOK, AND IN GENERAL PREPARING THEMSELVES FOR BASE TOURS AND BRIEFINGS.

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2. DURING MORNING JULY 7, VISITORS CALLED ON AMBASSADOR AND SPENT OVER FOUR HOURS WITH DCM, POL AND POL-MIL COUNSELORS. THEIR QUESTIONS DEALT WITH U.S.-JAPAN SECURITY RELATIONSHIP, U.S. COMMITMENT TO JAPAN AND ROK, EMBASSY INVOLVEMENT IN MILITARY MATTERS, JAPANESE POLITICAL SYSTEM AND CURRENT SITUATION, JAPANESE VIEWS ON SECURITY MATTERS AND PLANNED REDUCTIONS IN U.S. BASES. SPECIFIC MATTERS RAISED WERE MITO BOMBING RANGE, QUESTION WHETHER NAVAL BASES NEEDED AT BOTH SASEBO AND YOKOSUKA, AND POSSIBILITY OF TRANSFERRING SOME F4'S FROM YOKOTA TO MISAWA. THEY SEEMED PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT DANGER THAT JAPANESE FRUSTRATION OVER INABILITY TO SOLVE BASE PROBLEMS MIGHT LEAD JAPAN TO A POSTURE OF NEUTRALITY, WHETHER UNARMED OR--AS THEY FEARED--NUCLEAR-ARMED.

3. VISITORS SPENT JULY 7-11 UNDER USFJ AUSPICES. IN LONG TALK WITH AMBASSADOR JULY 11, THEY SHOWED CONCERN OVER: EXTENT OF U.S. COMMITMENT TO JAPAN AND ROK; HOW TO ENSURE EMB INPUT TO MILITARY PLANNING; AND JAPANESE POLITICAL PRESSURE OVER CERTAIN BASE PROBLEMS SUCH AS MITO. (THEY WERE IN JAPAN DURING SCC MEETING ON JULY 9 AND WELL AWARE OF EXTENSIVE PRESS PLAY FOLLOWING DAY ON MITO PROBLEM). IN TERMS OF SPECIFIC IDEAS GAINED FROM TOUR OF BASES THEY EVIDENTLY FELT THAT:

A. MILITARY PLANS TO INCREASE MEN, AIRCRAFT AND ON-BASE FACILITIES AS PART OF VIET-NAM RETROGRADE RAN COUNTER TO OVERALL POLICY NOT TO INCREASE U.S. FORCES IN JAPAN;

B. MILITARY JUSTIFICATION FOR CONTINUED USE OF MITO WAS INADEQUATE AND CONTRADICTIONARY;

C. RELUCTANCE TO MOVE OUT OF KANTO PLAIN AREA TO LESS HOSPITABLE AREAS SUCH AS MISAWA BASED MORE ON CREATURE COMFORT THAN MILITARY CONSIDERATIONS;

D. THERE IS NOT FULL AWARENESS WITHIN USG OF EXACT NATURE AND EXTENT OF U.S. COMMITMENT TO JAPAN ON ROK;

E. AIRCRAFT PRESENTLY STATIONED IN ROK AND JAPAN COULD BE SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCED WITHOUT IMPAIRING CREDIBILITY OF DETRRENCE.

4. PERSISTENT THREAD RUNNING THRU PINCUS-PAUL REMARKS TO EMBOFFS

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WAS NATURE OF U.S. COMMITMENT AND EXTENT OF EMB KNOWLEDGE AND POLITICAL INPUT TO MILITARY PLANS AND PROGRAMS. BOTH STRUCK EMBOFFS AS HAVING BEEN WELL BRIEFED ON JAPAN PRIOR ARRIVAL AND ABLE TO ABSORB LARGE AMOUNTS OF DATA AND TO GRASP QUICKLY SOPHISTICATED ANALYSES OF CURRENT PROBLEMS.

5. DOCUMENTS REQUESTED AND READ BY PINCUS AND PAUL INCLUDED ALL AIRGRAM REPORTS ON SECURITY SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS, SCC IX AIRGRAM, BASE PACKAGE PROPOSAL WORKED OUT BETWEEN AMBASSADOR JOHNSON AND ADMIRAL MCCAIN, AND FEASIBILITY STUDY ON TRANSFER OF ITAZUKE OPS TO IWAKUNI. NO OTHER DOCUMENTS WERE REQUESTED.

6. LIAISON WITH USFJ INDICATED THAT BOTH LT. GEN. MCGEHEE AND MAJ. GEN. FRANKLIN SHARE THE OPINION THAT PINCUS AND PAUL WERE MAKING A SINCERE EFFORT TO COLLECT INFORMATION AND TO HONESTLY PROBE RATIONALE FOR CURRENT FACILITY HOLDINGS IN THE LIGHT OF ACTUAL MILITARY REQUIREMENTS TO SUPPORT NATIONAL STRATEGY. EXCEPT IN RARE CASES INVOLVING SENSITIVE QUESTIONS BEST ANSWERED IN WASHINGTON, ALL QUESTIONS ON MILITARY MATTERS WERE ANSWERED IN A CORDIAL BUT FRANK ATMOSPHERE. PINCUS AND PAUL APPEAR TO HAVE EXHAUSTED ALL POSSIBLE QUERIES AND DID NOT SEEM DISSATISFIED WITH ANSWERS.

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